



# A1 Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

## **Assembly Bill 602** **Manner of Providing Fire Protection for a Town**

*Assembly Committee on Renewable Energy and Rural Affairs*  
*March 11, 2010*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Assembly Bill 602 (AB 602), relating to the manner in which a town provides fire protection services.

I have introduced this bill at the request of a constituent – Mr. Ray Haen – who joins me today.

Under current law, all town boards are required to provide fire protection for their respective towns. Fire protection can be provided in any manner including;

1. Establishing a town fire department.
2. Joining with another town, village or city to establish a joint fire department.
3. Contracting with any person.
4. Utilizing a fire company organized under Chapter 213.

Prior to 1985, the means by which fire protection was provided to the town could be decided by electors at the annual town meeting. However, the power to make this decision was turned over to town boards during the Chapter 60 re-write.

AB 602 specifies that the manner in which fire protection is provided in a town may be designated at the annual town meeting. If the manner of providing fire protection is designated by the annual town meeting, the town board is required to provide fire protection in that manner. If it is not designated at the annual town meeting, the decision is left to the town board.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of AB 602.